

Blues should take final for the 20th time

AFTER Friday's all-important league battle against Enfield, Wycombe Wanderers will be able to relax a little on Easter Monday when they take on Thatcham in the final of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup. The match is being played at Chesham (3 p.m.).

Wanderers will be bidding for their third Senior Cup win in successive years, having beaten Slough on the last two occasions. This term, they beat the Rebels 3-0 at Wexham Park after a much delayed game and then thrashed little Rivets Sports 7-1 at Aylesbury in the semi-final.

Rivets play in the same league — the Rothmans Hellenic — as Monday's opponents Thatcham,

although the works team are right at the other end of the table. Thatcham are currently in second place behind last year's champions Moreton Town, and have lost only twice this season — both times to Moreton.

Thatcham's record is impressive. In 20 league matches they have conceded only 10 goals and on the way to the Senior Cup final they have disposed of some fair sides.

In the first round they beat Didcot Town 2-0 and then disposed of Bracknell by the same scoreline. They drew Aylesbury away in the third round and won 3-1, the only goal conceded in the cup run to date. The quarter-final paired them at home to Southern League club

Milton Keynes. After a goal-less 90 minutes they snatched a goal in extra time to win a semi-final tie at home to Wokingham.

The Rothmans Isthmian League Division Two club were expected to end this run of Thatcham's but they too were unable to score, while the Hellenic Leaguers snatched a single goal and held on to reach their first-ever final.

This seems to be the way Thatcham play. They go all out for an early goal and then rely on their strong defence to see the game out. Their top goalscorer is Billy Maule with 13.

Whether these tactics can work against Wanderers is highly unlikely. Wycombe have

too much goalpower to be held at bay for 90 minutes and if they field their full-strength side, they shouldn't have too much difficulty in lifting the trophy for the 20th time.

HELLENIC LEAGUE Premier Division

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Moreton | 27 | 18 | 4 | 5 | 60 | 20 | 58 |
| Thatcham | 20 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 33 | 10 | 48 |
| Newbury | 25 | 13 | 3 | 9 | 45 | 39 | 42 |
| Bicester | 23 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 53 | 39 | 38 |
| Cir'cester | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 46 | 50 | 38 |
| Clanfield | 21 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 40 | 27 | 37 |
| Pinehurst | 25 | 11 | 4 | 10 | 24 | 33 | 37 |
| Burnham | 21 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 35 | 27 | 36 |
| Wallingford | 26 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 31 | 34 | 35 |
| Thame | 24 | 9 | 4 | 11 | 38 | 41 | 31 |
| Chipping N | 23 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 36 | 32 | 29 |
| Wantage | 24 | 8 | 4 | 12 | 27 | 35 | 28 |
| Oxford | 28 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 43 | 57 | 28 |
| Abingdon | 26 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 41 | 25 |
| Hungerford | 25 | 7 | 2 | 16 | 32 | 48 | 23 |
| Didcot | 22 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 31 | 43 | 21 |
| Rivets | 22 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 27 | 51 | 19 |